

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9616

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

US MISSION NEW YORK 337

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UY, SF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER

REF: MVD 201

1. SUMMARY. IN A BRIEF UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO URUGUAY, SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MET AT LENGTH WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND SENIOR OFFICIALS. ON DEPARTURE VORSTER SAID THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HAD DISCUSSED BROAD AREAS OF COOPERATION. WE BELIEVE THE VISIT WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO ENSURE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA, ALTHOUGH URUGUAY OBVIOUSLY DESIRES ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT FROM AND TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL. END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, ACCOMPANIED BY A PARTY OF 39 (INCLUDING MEDIA REPS), PAID A 30-HOUR VISIT TO URUGUAY AUGUST 17-18. ALTHOUGH TERMED UNOFFICIAL AND DESCRIBED BY VORSTER AS "SIMPLY A COURTESY CALL," THE VISIT INCLUDED EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY, FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO, AND OTHER SENIOR GOU OFFICIALS.

3. THE GOU DID NOT COMMENT ON THE SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN  
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THE TWO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, BUT VORSTER TOLD THE PRESS ON HIS

DEPARTURE THAT BROAD BASES OF COOPERATION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE AREAS OF FINANCE (INCLUDING INVESTMENTS), COMMERCE, TECHNOLOGY, CULTURE AND AGRICULTURE DURING HIS THREE-HOUR TALK WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY.

4. THE PRESS INDICATED THAT VORSTER HAD INVITED BORDABERRY TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT THE VISIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT YEAR. VORSTER'S ONLY PUBLIC HINT OF A VISIT CAME WHEN HE TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS GOING TO INVITE THEM SO THEY COULD CORRECT FALSE IMPRESSIONS PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

5. COMMENT. WHILE WE HAVE LITTLE DIRECT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, WE BELIEVE IT WAS INTENDED PRIMARILY TO CEMENT FRIENDLY TIES WHICH MIGHT ENSURE CONTINUED URUGUAYAN SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN THE UNITED NATIONS. FOR ITS PART, THE GOU HOPES TO OBTAIN INCREASED TRADE AND OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS (SEE REFTTEL) AS WELL AS TO BOLSTER TIES WITH FRIENDLY STATES WHICH MIGHT SUPPORT IT, TOO, IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA WHERE THE GOU HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF FEELING INCREASINGLY ISOLATED.  
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